

DRAFT
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INTEGRITY/FRAUD PREVENTION
SUBCOMMITTEE

May 13, 2004

Attendance:

Rick Zynda, DHFS/DHCF/BEM; Mike Poma, Milwaukee County; Richard Basiliere, Outagamie County DHHS; Gene Kucharski, Portage County; Charles Billings, DHFS/DHCF; Barry Chase, DHFS/DHCF; Richard Eddings, Dane County; Nancy Foss, DHFS/DHCF; Sandy Leonard, Interstate Reporting Co.; Jodi Ross, DHFS/DHCF; Steve Ploeser, DHFS/DHCF; Joyce McCrary, Milwaukee County; Sheila Drays, Dodge County; Virginia Wiedenfeld, Richland County

Phone In attendees:

Jim Borgerson, Douglas County

The meeting was called to order by Rick Zynda.

The minutes of April 1, 2004 were discussed and approved for publication.

New Members:

Sheila Drays, Dodge County, was welcomed as a new member of the committee, representing the Southern Region, replacing Virginia Wiedenfeld, Richland County. Thanks to Virginia for her valuable contributions to the committee, and best wishes in retirement from county service.

DHFS Updates:

Distribution of Fraud Functions in Bureau

The Bureau of Income Maintenance Administration completed identification of responsibilities and staff in the various Sections of the Bureau responsible for program integrity/fraud prevention functions. Many of the functions were the responsibility of the former Public Assistance Fraud Section. A bureau workgroup comprised of the staff will be initiated, with Rick Zynda serving as coordinator. There will be ongoing development and monitoring of the priorities and activities of the group in the coming months.

Training and Technology

The Bureau will be focusing on a concept called "distance learning". Due to local and state workload and travel issues, some training courses will consist of a combination of PowerPoint, conference call, and web based training. Discussion is underway as to the best combination of web based training vs face-to-face. Also in development is the "worker web", which will change CARES access from the current mainframe to a web based system. Electronic case files will be phased in, beginning in January 2005.

Benefit Recovery Administrators Memo

Recent discussions with IMAC about workload and funding of IM administrative costs, local agency workload, and the impact of the Medicaid tax intercept ruling on program revenue, require further discussion in the Bureau concerning the issuance of the Administrators Memo.

Claims Data

Food stamp collections/retention is down, but Medicaid collections/retention is up. However, due to the ruling putting Medicaid tax intercept on hold, it is unclear as to how this will affect collections – and thus local agency retention, and program revenue for state administrative costs. Although funding is tight, it appears there should be sufficient funding to fund the program through 2005. Random moment sampling (RMS) is proving beneficial to the program, with sampling indicating a higher than expected level of activity.

IM Manual

The Division is in the process of updating the manual, and when completed, will be placed on-line.

Child Care:

Discussion on where child care are investigations are headed. There are questions of funding for investigations. Local agencies indicate there are substantial dollar amounts in claims established as a result of child care investigations and prosecutions. Milwaukee County has been conducting a significant amount of child care investigations, and funding their efforts with administrative funds that are not associated with the IM Program Integrity/Fraud allocations. Therefore, they don't get credit for the work as Program Integrity/Fraud.

DWD Child Care program staff will be invited to the June meeting, to discuss what their intentions are for program integrity, what local agencies can provide, and how administrative costs for services could be funded. Services could be reported to DHFS, and billed to DWD based on RMS data.

Gatekeeper Role

Milwaukee County questioned what responsibilities the "gatekeeper" has to report information to other agencies. The issue pertains to Child Care providers, concerning information gained by an investigation that would be of interest to the IRS, State Revenue, etc. Policies and guidelines should be developed by DWD concerning confidentiality requirements for local agencies relative to provider information.

Recommendations for 2005

The subcommittee needs to look at recommendations for 2005. We need to talk more about the combining of Program Integrity and Fraud funding. A question was raised as to whether the funding for benefit recovery could be combined into the total investigation allocation (Note: IMAC did not approve of this for 2005, preferring to keep benefit recovery in the base IM allocation). One possibility would be to have all costs for PI/Fraud reported through the CARS fiscal reporting system. CARS, however, is not case specific. Thus, there are issues regarding how payments would be made to private contractors. Considerable discussion was held on how to possibly change the present fiscal system, how to pass on overmatch, use of CARS vs CARES for reporting, and payments to local agencies vs private contractors.

It was suggested that the emphasis for 2005 should be placed on:

1. benefit recovery and training
2. automation to make it easier to determine and compute overpayments

More discussion is needed in these areas at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting: June 10 – 9:30 am – 12:30 p.m. – WI Dept. of Agriculture
Building – Board Room**

Richard Eddings
6/8/04